

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Claims 1 – 49 are pending in the Office Action. Claims 18-49 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5, 7 and 11-17 are rejected. Claims 6 and 8-10 are objected to. In response, Applicant has Amended Claim 1 and cancelled Claim 6. Claims 1-5 and 7-49 remain.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,326,216). Claims 2-5 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. in view of Bailey (U.S. Pat. No. 6,249,014). In response, Applicant amended claim 1 by adding the allowable subject matter of claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that all claims, namely Claims 1-5 and 7-17, are now patentable over the cited references. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 1, 2005

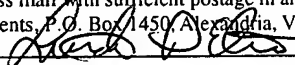
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 1, 2005


Linda DELIA

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